

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to ask that you reconsider your decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Haiti, El Salvador, and Nicaragua and to urge you to extend the TPS designation for Honduras.

Although Haiti has made progress in its rebuilding efforts after the 2010 earthquake and the subsequent cholera outbreak, it has continued to suffer from extensive damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017, effectively preventing Haiti from adequately handling the return of its foreign nationals. The effects of these disasters persist, having created high levels of unemployment and poverty and severe damage to Haiti's infrastructure. In fact, much of the country's economy currently depends on the remittances being sent from the United States to Haiti. Extending the TPS designation for Haiti would allow sufficient time for the Haitian government, with U.S. assistance, to continue making steady, though limited, progress as Haiti fully recovers from these disasters.

Additionally, through the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America, our country has worked hard to address corruption, weak institutions, and insecurity in El Salvador and Honduras, all significant factors contributing to migration to the United States. Remittances from the U.S. are also of critical importance to economic growth in both El Salvador and Honduras. Eliminating these economic pillars will have a devastating impact on our joint efforts to make these countries self-sufficient. Forcing the return of Salvadoran and Honduran migrants may also contribute to the gang violence, criminal activity, and instability that has caused so many to migrate to the United States in the first place. Terminating TPS for these countries not only risks significant setbacks to the progress we are making but is a counterproductive policy that will exacerbate the very problems we are trying to solve.

As for Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with approximately 40% of the population living in poverty, it continues to suffer from the lasting impacts of Hurricane Mitch, and more recently, Tropical Storm Nate, which caused flooding, landslides and infrastructure damage. In addition, the widespread human rights abuses of the Ortega regime has created a lot of fear for Nicaraguan nationals to safely return to their country after living in a free society like the U.S. Extending TPS for Nicaragua would allow Nicaraguans in the United States to continue making significant contributions to our economy while sending needed remittances back a poverty-stricken country struggling under a regime this administration recently sanctioned for human rights abuses and electoral fraud.

In each of the countries, TPS is an important policy tool that benefits both the individuals being protected as well the economic and security interests of the United States. Therefore, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we urge you to reconsider terminating the TPS designation for Haiti, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, and to extend the TPS designation for Honduras.


Sincerely,


ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress


MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress


FREDERICA WILSON
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